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*First proof of yellow fever at Ocean Springs.*

MOBILE, ALA., September 7, 1897.

SIR: As authorized by your telegram of the night of the 3d instant, I left the resident physician, Dr. Porter, in charge and accompanied Dr. W. H. Saunders, of the State board of health, and Dr. Rhett Goode, chairman of the city board, to Ocean Springs, Miss., for the purpose of investigating clinically the fever prevailing at that point. We reached Ocean Springs early on the 4th, and at once consulted the local physicians and wired the State health officer, Dr. Harralson, at Biloxi, to join us. We then visited 4 cases of the so-called "dengue" or "fever." The characteristic disproportion in pulse rate, icteroid skin, conjunctivæ, and prostration appealed to us strongly. By accident, I heard that there had been a death from the "fever" the afternoon of the 3d. This death the local attending physician had not informed us of, nor had he directed us to his most serious cases. We at once sought another interview, and, this gentleman discouraging the idea of an autopsy, I, with State Health Officer Harralson, visited the Mayor and requested his interference, and he readily granted us the power to enforce the post-mortem examination. Fortunately, the sons of the deceased readily consented and arranged for it. I conducted the autopsy, Drs. Saunders and Harralson in attendance.

There was presented every pathologic sign of death from acute infection and not from *whisky*, as reported to us by his attending physician. Microscopic and macroscopic proofs of death from yellow fever were found, Drs. Saunders and Harralson agreeing with me. It had been learned that Dr. Oliphant was en route for Ocean Springs and it was decided to await discussion and action, based upon the autopsy and our general observation of cases, until this official arrived from New Orleans. At 6 p. m. Dr. Oliphant, president of the Louisiana board of health, arrived, accompanied by a large number of his expert officers, equipped for extensive hygienic examinations. Dr. Archinard, microscopist, and Dr. Metz, chemist, with Dr. Gill, expert in yellow fever, were intimately associated with me. At 9 p. m. a general conference was held in the rooms of the Mobile authorities. The views of the presidents of the boards represented were given in detail. Dr. Saunders pronounced for yellow fever. Dr. Harralson was almost persuaded. Dr. Oliphant said that while he still thought it dengue, the situation seemed to demand further research. I affirmed my opinion of yellow fever. It was then proposed that we act together in this research and agreed, whereupon I gave in detail my impressions of the clinical evidence, and my conclusions based upon these and the autopsy held during the afternoon. Discussion was energetic for several hours, and the Louisiana board refused to be influenced unless further proof could be gotten. During the 5th I saw, with Dr. Oliphant, several cases not seen before, and two of these I diagnosed as yellow fever. Dr. Saunders also saw a new case, with Dr. Archinard, not shown us before, and he pronounced it yellow fever. Samples of blood were examined fresh from 5 cases.

No. 1, I diagnosed as presenting the quartan type of malarial organism, and these were verified by Dr. Archinard and Dr. Saunders, although this case was the one diagnosed by Dr. Saunders "yellow fever." The plasmodia were intracorpuseular, sluggishly ameboid, rather small, and sharply defined, with shrinking of the containing red cell. I could only make out two groups of organisms, one quite small and the other filling

the shrunken cell. No segments were seen in this case, nor embryonic extracorpuseular bodies. There were large, bizarre, pigmented bodies, not vacuolated; pigment black and quiescent; polymorphonuclear leucocytes pigmented.

Case No. 2, of McDaniel's, thought by all to be suspicious, had no organisms.

No. 3 was a tertian type, large, poorly defined, actively ameboid organism, in full-sized cell.

No. 4 and No. 5 I believe to be tertian.

Urine, in numerous cases found to have been albuminoid by us, was again tested, and the chemist made a large number of these tests. In nearly all there was 30 to 40 per cent albumen. At 8 p. m. a general conference, all present, Dr. Oliphant stated that he had been able to find nothing to change his views of the situation; his experts had not yet finished and that no decision could be reached. Dr. Harralson thus decided. Dr. Saunders and myself then announced our intention of returning to Mobile, as we were convinced, and our duty was to report there. We were asked to delay. At this stage the resident physician hastily announced the imminent death from convulsions of Miss Shutze, the patient seen by Dr. Saunders and diagnosed yellow fever. This information was as a thunderclap to those who had announced it "dengue." Great pressure was exercised on Dr. Saunders and he determined to await the autopsy; Dr. Harralson and Dr. Oliphant specially requested this. A 6 a. m. Dr. Archinard made section of this body when all the conditions of the first autopsy were duplicated. At a conference at 9 a. m. each gentleman thus expressed his opinion. We returned to our respective cities.

I can inform you that during these trying hours of investigation and conference, as the representative of the Service, aiding Mobile, I was the recipient of much consideration from the hands of the officials of Louisiana and Mississippi, and it will always remain a pleasant experience, my contact with such active, earnest, honest, and intelligent health officials, in whom our entire country may feel a perfect confidence. Of Ocean Springs and the *causes* of the outbreak I will try to offer information more exact than that now available. Also, as to the dual infection of some of the cases.

Respectfully,

EUGENE WASDIN,  
*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Yellow fever precautions in Florida.*

[Sent to all agents, some forty-five, one in each county.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF FLORIDA,  
*Jacksonville Fla., September 7, 1897.*

DEAR DOCTOR: Your attention is called to the inclosed proclamation and to the rules and regulations of the State board of health bearing on interstate quarantine and medical inspection.

Official information has been received at this office of the existence of cases of yellow fever in the States of Louisiana and Mississippi (just how many it is not known), and it has been deemed advisable to institute the precautions contemplated in the rules to which attention is called.

For the present certificates will be demanded of all persons entering the State from the direction of the suspected localities. Persons recently